(a) whether she has asked State Governments to take all possible steps at their end to halt the slump in incoming tourist traffic for the last few months and has urged them to cut tax for attracting foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the main suggestions pointed out to the States including increasing of floor area ratio for hotels;

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereto;

(d) to what extent State Governments have agreed; and

(e) whether Government is confident of States attracting more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The development and promotion of tourism, including rationalization of luxury tax, passenger and road tax, are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism had written to the State Governments on 9th January, 2009 to give due consideration on these issues and also on seamless travel, safety and security of tourists and increasing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of hotels, in order to provide relief to tourism sector in the face of global financial crisis that is affecting the tourism sector adversely.

The Ministry of Tourism has announced various promotional schemes like Visit India Year 2009, liberalization of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for overseas marketing, introduction of MDA scheme for the promotion of domestic tourism and Meetings Incentives Conferences Exhibitions (MICE) tourism and allowing External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for the construction of hotels and increase of Floor Area Ratio from 150 to 225 in most of the parts of National Capital Territory of Delhi, so as to increase the tourist inflow in the country.

Corporate scams

*31. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Satyam Computers scam is just the tip of the iceberg and that many business houses in India, banks, auditors and Government agencies collude with vested interests to dress up balance sheets to mislead investors; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The case of Satyam Computer Services Limited (the "Company") is an isolated case of its kind and cannot be generalized. This Ministry has ordered investigation into the affairs of the Company under Sec. 235 of the Companies Act, 1956, to be carried out by officers drawn from the Serious Fraud Investigation Office. Such investigation has been ordered with a view to uncover the nature and scope of fraud/ non-compliance or violation of the law by the Company, its directors and officers and to enable appropriate action against the persons involved.

CAT-III trained pilots with private airlines

*32. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently taken serious note of flight disruptions due to fog despite most airlines claiming to have CAT-III trained pilots;

(b) if so, the details of flights cancelled or delayed due to fog during the past two months at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi;

(c) whether most of the private airlines are not keen to provide training to their pilots for CAT-II or III; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the DGCA against private airlines which are not providing training to their pilots for CAT-II or III?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that airlines certified for CAT-III operations roster the crew with CAT-III qualifications during period, DGCA monitored the flight scheduling of the airlines during December, 2008 and January, 2009. During the past two months, 71 flights were cancelled, 752 flights were rescheduled and 145 flights were diverted due to fog.

(c) and (d) Pilots of various domestic Schedule Airlines are trained for CAT-II/III operations during low visibility conditions as per the requirements laid down in Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section-7, Series 'X", Part-I. Although there is no mandatory requirement for Domestic Airlines to get their pilots trained to operate during low visibility conditions, these airlines are persuaded to train their pilots to operate in low visibility conditions. Only such pilots, who are CAT-II/III qualified, are approved as Instructor/Examiner so as to ensure that more trained pilots are available for CAT-II/III operators during low visibility conditions to improve the operational efficiency. Further, flights schedules of Domestic Scheduled Operators to/from fog bound airports are approved on the basis of number of pilots trained by the operations for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations.

Compensation to contractual employees

*33. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about an accidental death of a Spice Jet contractual employee within Ahmedahad airport runway campus;

(b) what compensation will be paid by the said company or by civil aviation authorities to the family of the deceased;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware that blanket outsourcing of various jobs by the civil aviation authority has given freedom to private contractors to violate various labour laws; and

(d) what action or preventive steps are suggested by his Ministry to protect the legitimate right of minimum wages, other facilities, medical treatment and compensation in case of untimely death of workers while on duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. M/s. Spicejet has informed that there has been no case of accidental death involving any Spicejet employee at Ahmedabad airport.